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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 33
46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2004
INTRODUCED BY
Jim Trujillo

FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL
REQUESTING THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE TO CONDUCT
A STUDY OF CHARTER SCHOOLS.

WHEREAS, the 1999 Charter Schools Act was enacted by the legislature five years ago; and

WHEREAS, charter schools are public schools that are required to meet the same academic and fiscal accountability standards required of all other public schools; and

WHEREAS, the 1999 Charter Schools Act requires that no more than fifteen start-up charter schools and five conversion charter schools be approved in any one year for five consecutive years, making possible a total of one hundred approved charter schools in any five-year period; and

WHEREAS, the limit on the number of charter schools is not based on any data regarding the fiscal or programmatic

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1 impact of charter schools on the viability of local school
2 districts individually or the state as a whole; and

3 WHEREAS, thirty-four charter schools are in operation now,
4 eight more are scheduled to open in summer or fall 2004 and
5 three more are scheduled to open in summer or fall 2005; and

6 WHEREAS, the thirty-four operating charter schools have a
7 combined enrollment of approximately six thousand one hundred
8 students, and the eleven schools scheduled to open anticipate a
9 combined enrollment of three thousand students; and

10 WHEREAS, the enrollment in individual charter schools
11 ranges from twenty-one students to five hundred eighteen
12 students; and

13 WHEREAS, charter schools are funded operationally under
14 the same funding formula as public schools; and

15 WHEREAS, the New Mexico public school funding formula is
16 one of the most equitable in the United States; and

17 WHEREAS, notwithstanding the equity of the formula,
18 funding for New Mexico public schools has been limited and
19 under great stress in the past several years; and

20 WHEREAS, host school districts are not required to provide
21 capital outlay funding for charter schools with proceeds from
22 the sale of general obligation bonds; and

23 WHEREAS, charter school operators that lease facilities
24 have reported difficulties paying for leases out of their
25 operational funding sources; and

